

C.3

9722212

ILLINOIS STATE PARKS

I917.73794
STEP
1972
c.3

13650207

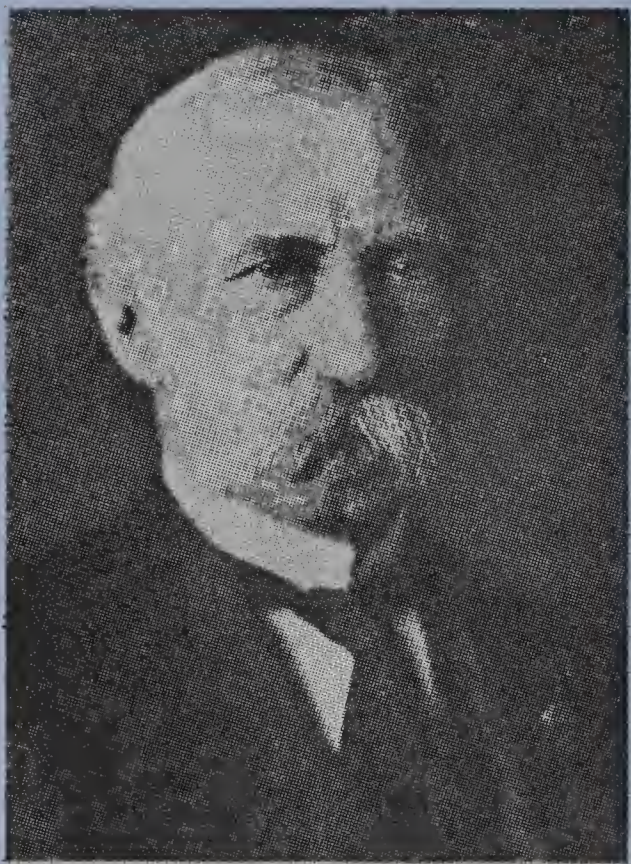
*Stephen A.
Forbes*

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

FEB 9 1972

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

I917.73794
STEP
1972
C.3



Forbes in Later Years

STEPHEN A. FORBES STATE PARK

Stephen A. Forbes State Park is 17 miles northeast of Salem off U.S. 50 near Omega in Marion County, or is reached from Ill. 37 north of Salem and Kinmundy, or from I-57 at the Farina, Kinmundy and Salem interchanges.

Boston Lake, a two-acre pond with a rustic lodge now used as the ranger's office, was purchased from Farina businessman Gail Boston, and was the nucleus of the park. Acquisition of 20 acres in 1959 formed the basis of the park. Recent acquisitions have boosted acreage to over 3,000. The park opened to the public Saturday, Aug. 15, 1964.

NAMED FOR SCIENTIST

The park was named Stephen A. Forbes, a name for Illinoisans to remember. Forbes was curator of the museum of the State Natural History Society (1872-77), director of the State Laboratory of Natural History (1877-1917), State Entomologist (1882-1917), pro-



fessor of Zoology and Entomology (1884-1909), dean of the College of Science (1888-1905) at the University of Illinois and chief of the State Natural History Survey (1917-30). He contributed mightily to the scientific world.

He was accomplished in several fields of biology: ornithology, entomology, ichthyology, aquatic biology and ecology. Few men have proved so eminently able in so many specialties. He authored many scientific publications. Forbes began to publish in 1870 and continued writing until his death. He published over 400 titles. He was a gifted writer; his papers display a simplicity, conciseness and clarity not often seen in scientific treatises.

PARK TAKES SHAPE

A site near Omega was chosen for the construction of a 525-acre lake built in 1963. It has a maximum depth of 28 feet and 18 miles of shoreline, and is stocked with largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, bullhead, channel catfish, carp and white bass. Fishing is usually good. Outboard motors of unlimited size may be used from June 16 to September 14 in authorized areas. Water skiing is allowed during this period. No swimming. The rest of the year there is a 10 HP limit on outboard motors. Boat docks will accommodate over 100. Boats are rented.

In 1966 while roads were being extended and firebreaks constructed, a new fisheries research center was completed below the dam. Facilities in this center include an air-conditioned laboratory, residence and garage, accommodations for graduate students and 14 drainable ponds. These are used by the Illinois Natural History Survey for a variety of aquatic biology and fisheries experiments. This lab is open to visitors five days each week.



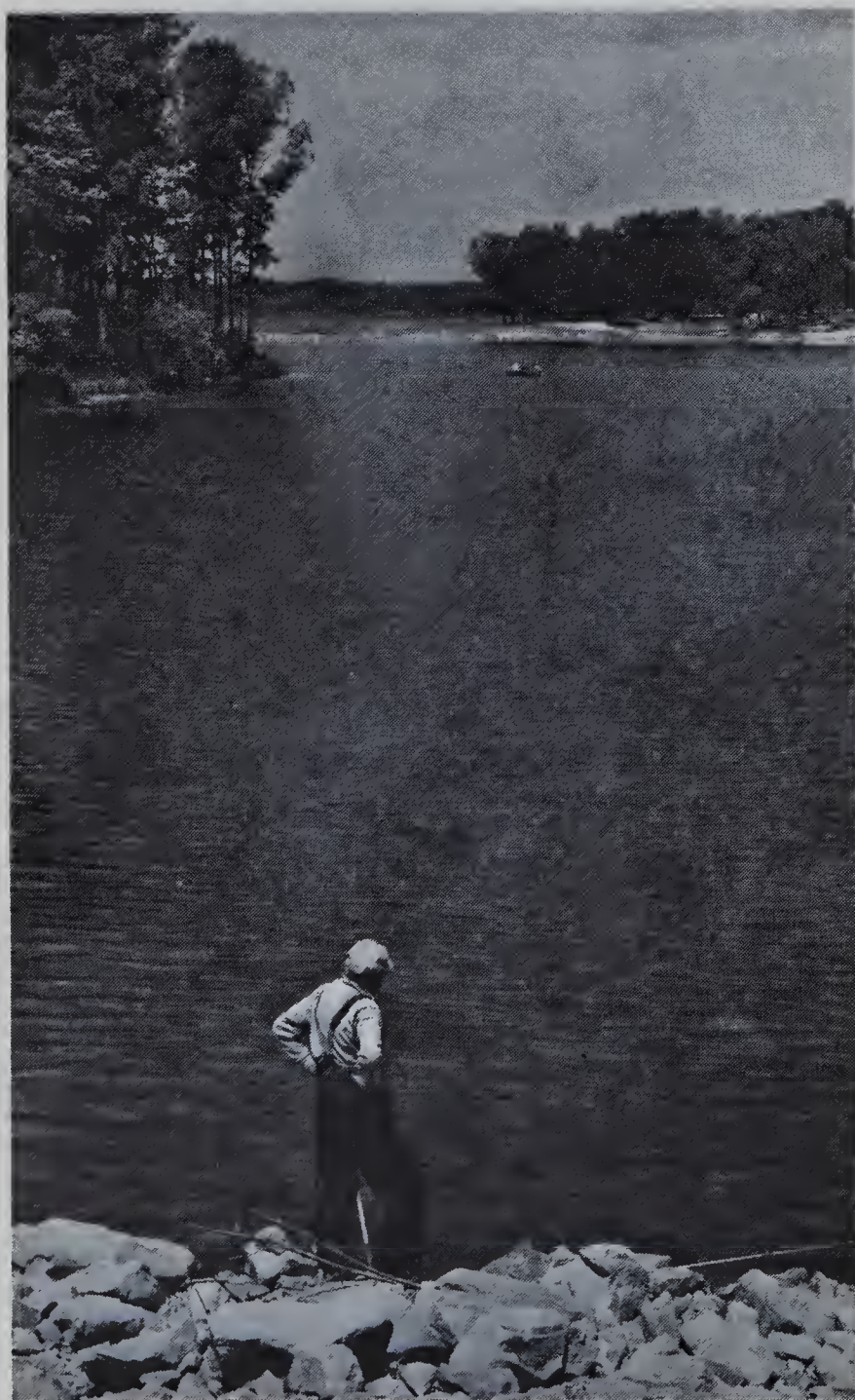
BOATING IS POPULAR SPORT

ACTIVITIES

Wamac Hill, Wilson, Sassafras, Waggoner, Rock Point, Lookout Point and White Oak are the picnic areas near to convenient parking and a snack bar.

Presently there are two camping areas, no electricity or gravel pads now. A youth group camping area has been developed and more camping areas are being added. Running water from hydrants, picnic tables and park stoves are available. Outside pit type toilets. The Ranger must be contacted for camping permits.

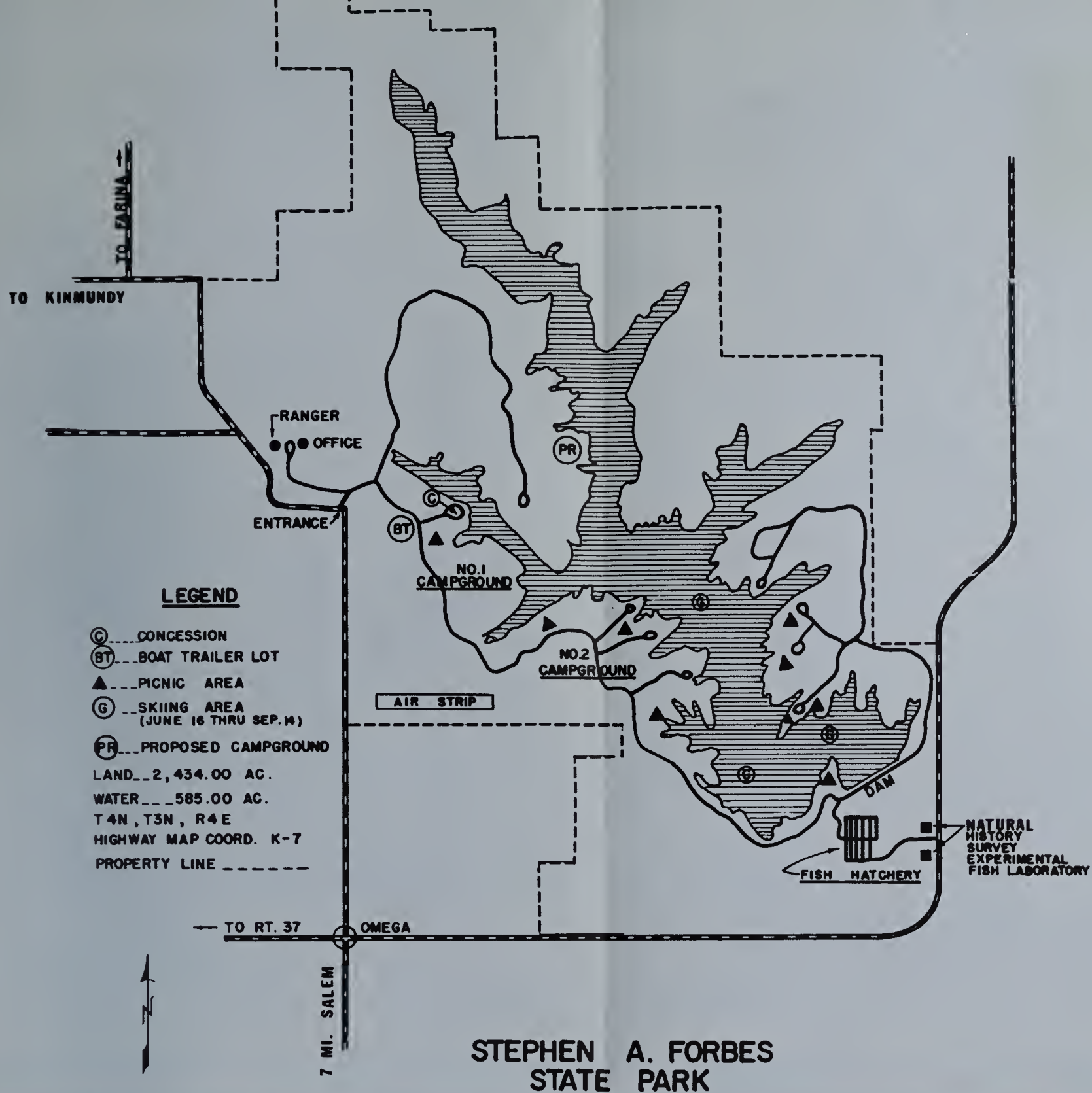
Field dog trials have long been popular in the hunting areas. Hunting is permitted during upland game seasons. No waterfowl hunting is permitted. An airstrip, with a good 2,500-foot sod runway, is located in the park for use of small planes.



**FISHERMAN GAZES OUT—
WAITS PATIENTLY FOR FISH**

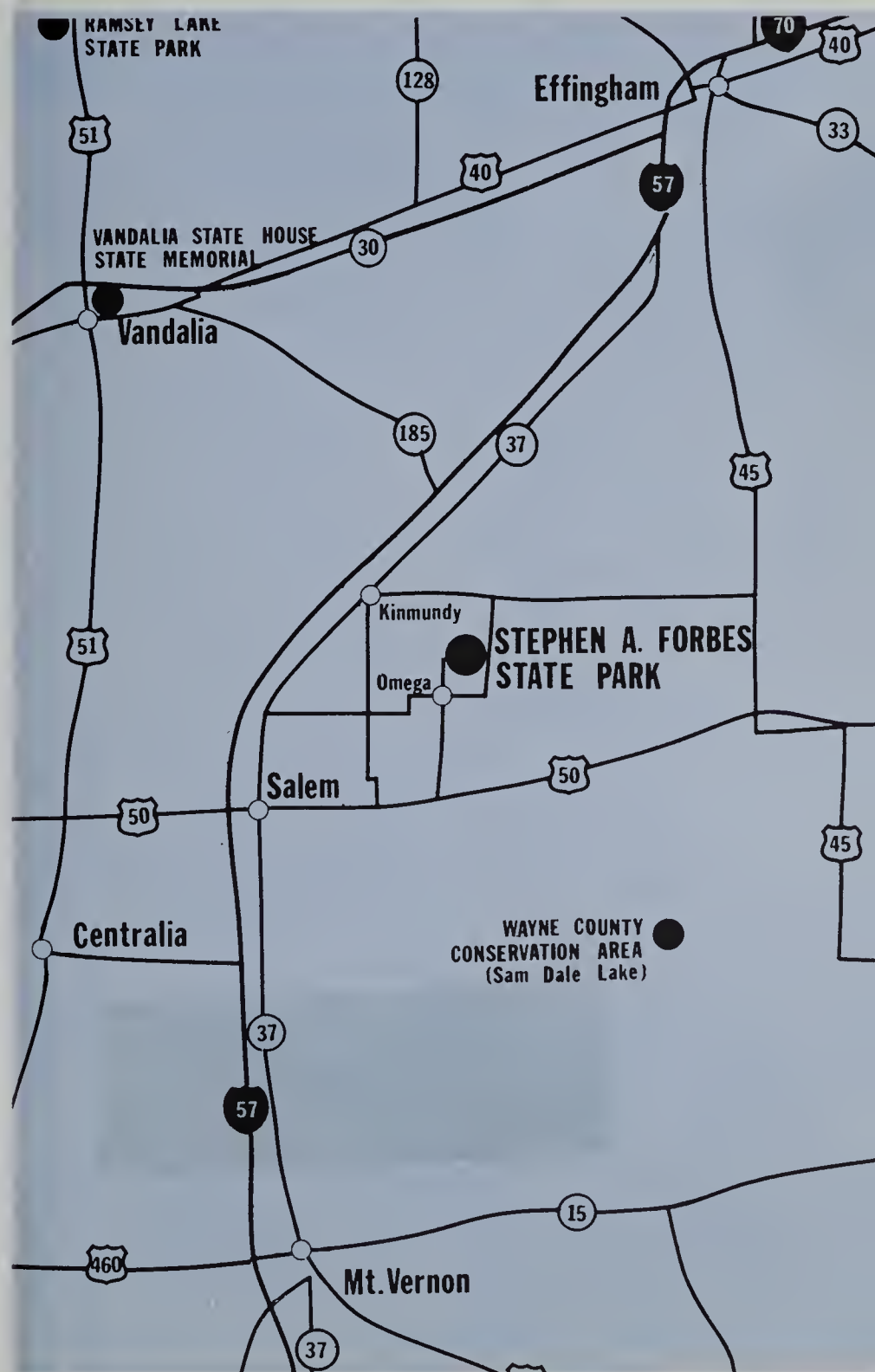
**LABORATORY AND EXPERIMENTAL
FISHING PONDS ADJACENT TO THE DAM**





UNUSUAL FEATURE

There are nature trails. Just wander over to the east side of the lake—you will find Indian grass, one of the few remaining stands in the state. Indian grass produces tawny, plume-like seed heads on stems from four to eight feet tall by September. When in bloom the bright yellow stamens give it a shimmer of gold, a delightful floral bouquet.



For further information concerning Illinois State Parks and Memorials write to the Division of Education, Department of Conservation, State Office Building, Springfield 62706.

Numerous State Parks and Memorials are within easy access to every part of the state. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest, and Giant City State Parks. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

Admittance will not be granted groups of 25 or more persons to any state park or conservation area unless permission from the park ranger has been secured to use facilities. It is also required that groups of minors have adequate supervision and that at least one responsible adult accompany each group not exceeding 15 minors. All pets must be on leash in state parks or conservation areas.

All state parks are open the year round, except when weather conditions necessitate the closing of park roads during freezing and thawing periods when access to park facilities is by foot traffic only.

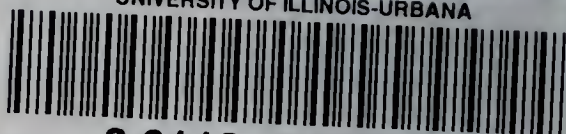
Richard B. Ogilvie, Governor

THE NEW ILLINOIS

We accommo



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 122555441

(Printed by authority of the State of Illinois)

Issued by

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Division of Parks and Memorials

25M-8-72

